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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,166	01/03/2004	Dean Kamen	3061/101	1538

2101 7590 05/15/2007  
BROMBERG & SUNSTEIN LLP  
125 SUMMER STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02110-1618

EXAMINER
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ARYANPOUR, MITRA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3711

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/15/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/751,166

Applicant(s)

KAMEN, DEAN

Examiner

Mitra Aryanpour

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norman et al (6,674,259) in view of BOTBALL.

Regarding claim 12, Norman et al in the Background of the Invention teaches that robot competitions are highly popular among people of all ages especially between high school students, wherein in these competitions, contestants i.e. students are asked to build robots to perform a wide range of tasks, such as picking up tennis balls, stacking blocks, and everything in-between (see column 1, lines 17-35). Norman et al does not disclose the particular competition rules. BOTBALL, a popular robotic competition. Each team is assigned a robot, which they design, build and operate to perform a series of tasks in each competition. In completing the tasks they are assigned points and at the end the team with the highest point value is declared the winner. Therefore, it would have been to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Norman et al and the well-known BOTBALL to obtain the invention as specified in claim 12. Norman et al as modified above does not explicitly state that the means for determining the winning team's score is by adding a portion of the losing teams score to the winner's total score. This concept is taught in poker tournaments and in gambling. US Patent Application Publication 2002/0155884 A1 to Updike teaches fair peer-to-peer gambling, wherein the winning points are

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subtracted from the loser's account and added to the winner's account (see abstract of the disclosure and paragraph 0011). In view of Updike it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Updike's scoring system into Normal et al's robot competition the motivation being to teach fair peer-to-peer competition.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. It is noted that there is no guarantee as applicant appears to be asserting that the winning alliance would be motivated to cause the other alliance to achieve a high raw score and for the teams of each alliance to work cooperatively. This limitation and/or argument, is speculative and is not supported by any objective evidence. It could very well be that the winning alliance does not aid the other alliance or alliances, therefore there would be no cooperation between alliances and what applicant appears to be claiming as the novelty of his invention would never materialize. What applicant appears to be claiming as the novelty of the invention has been practiced for centuries in playing various games with children. Adults when playing and/or teaching a game to children have a tendency to aid the child in learning a game. Therefore, there is no novelty in teaching what applicant refers to as "cooperation". As for the winning alliance inheriting all or a portion of the other alliances points or score, such is taught in poker tournaments and in gambling. US Patent Application Publication 2002/0155884 A1 to Updike teaches fair peer-to-peer gambling, wherein the winning points are subtracted from the loser's account and added to the winner's account.

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***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mitra Aryanpour whose telephone number is 571-272-4405. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Kim can be reached on 571-272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MA  
08 May 2007

  
**MITRA ARYANPOUR  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**